

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1- 47 (Cancelled).

48. (Cancelled) A stabilized viral envelope protein comprising three parallel, α -helical COOH-terminal viral envelope glycoprotein monomers that together form a stable three-stranded coiled coil having a conformation like that of a native form of the viral envelope glycoprotein when associated with a cellular membrane, wherein the stabilized viral envelope protein is substantially incapable of undergoing a conformational change to become active for membrane fusion, and wherein the monomer comprises SEQ ID NO:8.

49. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48 92, wherein the native form of a viral envelope glycoprotein is an HIV1 or HIV2 viral envelope glycoprotein.

50. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48 92, wherein the native form of a viral envelope glycoprotein comprises three HIV gp41 monomers that form a trimeric coiled coil, in a prefusogenic conformation.

51. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48 92, wherein the monomer is recombinantly produced.

52. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48 92, wherein the monomer is synthetically produced.

53. (Cancelled) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48, wherein the three-stranded coiled coil is stabilized by fusion of the monomer to an isoleucine zipper.

54. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48 92, wherein the three-stranded coiled coil is stabilized by one or more point mutations.

55. (Previously Presented) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 54, wherein the three-stranded coiled coil with one or more point mutations has SEQ ID NO:9.

56. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48 92, wherein the three-stranded coiled coil is stabilized by chemical cross-linking.

57. (Previously Presented) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 50, wherein the gp41 monomers comprise SEQ ID NO:7.

58. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 50, wherein the gp41 monomers comprise ~~comprise~~ comprising SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

Claims 59-91 (Cancelled).

92. (Currently Amended) A stabilized viral envelope protein comprising three parallel, α -helical COOH-terminal viral envelope glycoprotein monomers that together form a stable three-stranded coiled coil having a conformation like that of a native form of the viral envelope glycoprotein when associated with a cellular membrane, wherein the stabilized viral envelope protein is substantially incapable of undergoing a conformational change to become active for membrane fusion, and wherein the monomer comprises SEQ ID NO:2, 3, 5, 7 or 9 fused to a GCN-4-pII peptide comprising residues 53 to 85 of SEQ ID NO:4.

93. (Currently Amended) A stabilized viral envelope protein comprising three parallel, α -helical COOH-terminal viral envelope glycoprotein monomers that together form a stable three-stranded coiled coil having a conformation like that of a native form of the viral envelope glycoprotein when associated with a cellular membrane, wherein the stabilized viral envelope

protein is substantially incapable of undergoing a conformational change to become active for membrane fusion, and wherein the monomer comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2 or 4.